

A
LETTER of LOVE
TO THE
Young-Convicted

OF

That Blessed Everlasting Way of Truth and Righteousness, now testified unto by the People of the Lord (called Quakers) of what Sex, Age and Rank soever, in the Nations of England, Ireland and Scotland, with the Isle abroad; but more particularly those of that great City of LONDON; Spiritual Refreshments, Holy Courage and Perfect Victory from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

My dearly beloved Friends and Brethren,

WHO have been called by the Eternal Spirit, unto an Holy Calling, out of all the Pleasures, Vanities, Carnalities, Profits and Cares of this perishing polluted World, unto the pure Knowledge of the invisible God, and Jesus in you the Hope of Glory, which, so as many as Believe and Obey, is Life Eternal; and who for that little Beginning of your Heavenly Journey, have met with Reproach, Loss, Suffering and bitter Trials, as one among you, and a Traveller with you, and therefore deeply sensible of your heavy Exercise, and bowed-down Spirits, I am constrained by the Eternal Unction, which we have received from on High, to visit you in tender
Bowels

Bowels of Love unfeigned, beseeching you all in God's most Holy Fear and Counsel to stand fast, and make your *Calling* and *Election* sure, which is not (my dearest Friends) to those External and Shadowy Services, *that could never perfect as concerning the Conscience*, in which the Worship of the *Jews* formerly, and the Nations now mostly do consult (*Carnal and Beggarly Elements* indeed), *but to that Law in the Heart, and Spirit manifested in the Inward Parts, which is the Substance of all.*

Here God is the Teacher of his People, and daily doth replenish his with the Immediate Virtue of his own Life; For *God Eternal is broken forth*, and by the Mighty Power of his Spiritual Appearance is come, *to stain the Beauty of all the Inventions of Superstitious Men*, and thereby to summon all *Nations, Kindreds, Tongues and People* to Judgment, for their Unrighteousness, that he alone may Reign King in the Heart, where the Devil has hitherto had Dominion, that true Religion may consist in *fearing him and working Righteousness*, by the powerful Operation of the Spirit of Jesus in them, which my dearly beloved Friends, with all Singleness of Heart let us wait to be sensible of, that through the glorious Rising of the pure Power of the Everlasting God, which is felt by all the Children of the Light, we may be enabled *to work out our great Salvation with Fear and Trembling*: For great and weighty is the Work of the Almighty in this his Day of Appearance, even to adopt us Sons and Daughters of the Most High, *by a Participation of his Divine Nature*, that as we have born the *Innate of the Earthly, in Pride, Vanity, Wantonness, Avarice, and all manner of Impieties*; and that whilst some of us were under great Professions, and the continual Feasting on Visible and Elementary Things; so that now we may daily Experience, through Obedience to that *Pure Light and Truth in the Inward Parts*, which leads to all *Adeekness, Patience and Purity,*

Purity, the Quickening of the New Man, and sensibly witness a bearing of the Heavenly Image, that so we may come to feel the Peace that passeth the world's Understanding, and our poor, tossed, tryed and troubled Spirits in good measure fixt and anchor'd, in the Immoveable and Holy State, over all the Glories and Pollutions of the World, that so nothing may ever prevail upon us, to return into our former Wayes and Lusts, committed in our Ignorance: For, the over-flowing Scourge of the Almighty will be upon the Back of the Backslider, and his swift Wrath will overtake the Heart that faints by the way; yea, better were it that such had never been visited with the Glorious Day-spring from on High, nor been convinced by the Powerful Persuasions of the Holy Spirit concerning the Pure Eternal WAY of TRUTH, then afterwards to turn from it, and so trample the Blood of that most Excellent Covenant under foot: Yea, it will be the most Dreadful of all Aggravations to their Eternal Wo and Misery.

And therefore, *My dear Friends*, let us not be discomfited under all our sharp and heavy *Exercises*, whether from within or without; for this I am fully perswaded of, That the same pure Principle of Light and Truth, that hath appeared to give a certain Discerning of our States and Conditions, and wrought a Convincement upon our Understandings, is able to give us that Succour and Support, if our Minds be but seriously stay'd thereon, *as shall Sanctifie us throughout in Body, Soul and Spirit*; and so preserve us clean, to God over all.

And *My Dear Brethren*, Let us not enter into any Murmurings against the Lord, but be singly given up to know his Will and Work done in us, that we Perish not, as those of old: And in the Tender Love of Jesus Christ I earnestly en-

treat you, let us no more look back upon our ancient Pastimes and Delights but with holy Resolution press on, press on); for they will steal away our precious Souls, beget new Desire, raise the old Life, and finally, ensnare and pollute our Minds again; and what will be the End of such Rebellion, but *woes and Tribulations from the Hand of the Just God, world without end?* Neither let us enter into many Reasonings with Opposers; *For that's the Life God's Power is revealed to slay with the Two-edged Sword;* for 'tis the Still, the Quiet and the Righteous Life, which must be exalted over all. And this I lay in a sound Understanding, through the Mercies of the LORD, that *Deadness, Darknes and Anguish of Spirit,* will be the End of such Disputing and Pragmatical *Christians*, whose Religion consists much more in *words* then *works*, *Confessing* then *Forsakings*, and in their own *will-performances* and *External Observations*, then in the *Reformation and Conversion of their Souls to God*: And finally, we our selves, who have Known something more of the Lord, may also reduce our good Conditions to an utter Loss, by seeking to comprehend Dubious Matters in our Understandings, and Disputing about them with every Opposer the Devil in a way of Temptation shall present to us, which does no way Advance our Growth and Encrease in the Noble Principle of Truth.

And I beseech you, *My Dear Friends* Let not the Fear of any External Thing overcome the Holy *Resolutions* we have made to follow the Lamb, Christ Jesus, through all the *Tribulations, Tryals and Temptations*, he and his Followers ever met withal; O! let us be Valiant in God's Cause on Earth, who have but a short time and a few dayes to live.

And let the Constancy of the World to the *Momentary Fashions, Pleasures and Pollutions* of it, the more ardently stir

us up to expresse ours, for the Honour of our God against them all, *who will Reward us for what soever we bear, suffer or part withal on his Account:*

And therefore, I beseech you, Let neither *Father nor Mother, Sister nor Brother, wife nor Child, House nor Land, Liberties nor Life it self*, deter us from our Holy Constancy; but as the faithful Ancients did of old, *through Desarts, Wildernesses and solitary Places, in Goats-Skins and Sheep-Skins, endure all Torments and bitter Mockings in this Earthly Pilgrimage, for the Inheritance which is Everlasting.*

So, *My Dear Friends*, Let us do as we have them for our Example; however, let us be very careful to shew all due Respect to our Relations, not to be Exalted, nor any wayes Unruly, lest there be just Cause taken against us, and the blessed Truth should suffer; but in the *still, retired, holy and patient Life*, this pure eternal Principle of Light and Truth (as seriously and diligently waited on certainly brings into, let us all dwell and abide, so shall we feel the Powerful Operations of God's Holy Spirit, to the more compleat redeeming of our exercised Souls from under the Dominion of Sin, and to the giving all of us a clearer Understanding and sounder Judgment of those things that are to be parted from (as, the *Pleasures, Cares and Customs* of the World, that stand in the fallen Nature, and only nourish the same, but crucifie the Self-denying Lord of Glory), and of the Things of God, and his spiritual Kingdom, which are to be adhered to, that in his pure Wisdom, which is from above, we may all be kept and preserved, over all the Snares and Temptations of the *Adversary*, both on the Right Hand and on the Left.

And as one that is a Travailer in this Way, I even Beseech, Caution & Admonish you all in the Holy Awe of God, That you never forbear Meeting & Assembling of your selves with

with the Holy *Remnant*, amongst whom we first received our Blessed Convincement. O! forever let us Honour the Lord's Truth, and those who do sincerely profess the same, but more especially, such as were in Christ before us, for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord.

And let us beware of *Lightness*, *Festivity* or a *Careless Mind*, which grieves the Holy Spirit, *that stands ready to seal us unto the Day of our perfect Redemption*; but let us be *Grave*, *Weighty* and *Temperate*, keeping low in Body, as well as Mind, that in all things we may be Examples, and a Sweet Savour for the God who hath loved and called us.

And *My Dear Friends*, Let us keep in the Simplicity of the Cross of Jesus, even in Plainness of Speech, and out of the World's *flattering* and *deceitful Respects*; for we are as well to be a Cross in our *Garbes*, *Gates*, *Dealings* and *Salutations*, as *Religion* and *Worship*, to this *Vain*, *Adulterated* and *Apostatized Generation*. So, in the pure Measure of Truth, that hath been manifested to every Particular, and has convinced us of the Unrighteousness of the World, and the Vanity and Emptiness of all its Professions of *God*, *Christ* and *Religion*, O let us stand and abide! that we may feel it to be our Refuge and strong Tower, when the Enemy shall approach, either by Inward Exercise, or Outward Bonds and Sufferings, which in all likelihood will suddenly overtake us, for the Tryal of our most precious Faith; so shall we sensibly experience that heavenly Blood of cleansing to stream therefrom, *which only can give Remission, cleanse from all Sin, and finally, purge the Conscience from Dead Works, to serve the Living, Everlasting, Holy God, Almighty, Lord of Hosts, King of Nations, and King of Saints.* And what *soever things* are True, what *soever things* are Honest, what *soever things* are Just, what *soever things* are Pure, what *soever things* are Lovely, and what *soever things* are

of

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of Good Report, if there be any Vertue, if there be any Praise
O let us mind these things! and the God of Peace, that has by
his Eternal Quickening Power raised Jesus in Thousands from the
Dead, Bless, Accompany and Preserve us over all Tryals and Tri-
bulations, unto his Eternal Habitations of Rest and Glory.

Carberry, in the County }
of Cork, the 19th of }
the 12th Month, 1669. }

Your Brother and Fellow-Traveller
in the Kingdom and Patience of
Jesus our Lord;

W. P.

THE END.
